(c) whether Government are aware that the conversion of dry lands into wet or garden lands has been done by the ryots' labour and at their own expense; and

(d) whether it is not against the declared policy of the Government to tax ryots' improvements?

A.—(a) The following proposals were tentatively approved by the Government to enable the Special Settlement Officer to prepare his scheme for the South Kanara district:—

(i) that dry lands converted into wet should be reclassified at the resettlement and that appropriate rates of wet assessment should be imposed on them, and

(ii) that dry lands which have been converted into garden should be reclassified as garden.

The Government have no information as to the part of the district in which this work has been done.

(c) & (d) The Settlement Notification issued in 1902 for South Kanara expressly reserved to the Government the right to introduce at the end of the period of settlement such changes in the classification and assessment of 'wet', 'dry' and 'garden' lands as might then seem proper. The reclassification proposed is based on the same principles as those on which the classification now in force was based, and cannot in the circumstances be held to be in violation of the concession made in favour of ryots' improvements. In South Kanara, as elsewhere, the assessment has been, and will hereafter be, based on the commuted value of a share of the net produce of the land. The value of that share will obviously vary according to the capacity of the land to produce dry, wet or garden crops.

(b) The Government have not yet considered the matter. Owing to the present financial stringency they have directed that the resettlement of the taluks of the district in which resettlement is due before 1934–35 should be postponed to that year.

Public Service

Fall in the abkari revenue during the current year.

* 594 *Q.*—Mr. P. Bayappa Reddi: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there has been a fall in the abkari revenue during the current year; if so, by how much;

(b) what the deficit of abkari revenue that is anticipated during the coming year is; and

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government for effecting retrenchment in the Excise department by applying 'the axe' to the posts of the Deputy Commissioners and in other directions?

3rd November 1931]

A.—(*a*) On the basis of a comparison of the actual collection during the first six months of the three previous years with the total collection in those years, the Excise revenue anticipated in the first half of 1931–32, in consideration of the revenue anticipated for the whole year, is Rs. 241·51 lakhs. The actual revenue collected is Rs. 206·49 lakhs. There is thus a fall of Rs. 35·02 lakhs.

(*b*) On the information available at present, it is anticipated that the Excise revenue in 1932–33 will be less than the revenue for 1931–32 by about Rs. 26 lakhs.

(*c*) Proposals for effecting retrenchments in the Excise Department are under consideration. There is no proposal at present to abolish the posts of Deputy Commissioners.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*c*) of the question, is it not a fact that the Retrenchment Committee has recommended the abolition of four posts of Assistant Commissioners and one post of Deputy Commissioner ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"We have not yet received the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"When the recommendations do come, will the Government consider the desirability of giving effect to the recommendations ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I am not a prophet to say that."

Civil Justice

Employment of ex-service men in the District Court, Tinnevelly.

* 595 *Q*.—Mr. M. Devadasan: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many ex-military men have been employed in the District Court of Tinnevelly, as clerks and copyists;

(*b*) whether G.O. No. 319, Public, dated 8th April and G.O. No. 415, dated 26th March 1930, enjoining preferential treatment of the claims of ex-military men were communicated to the District Judge, Tinnevelly;

(*c*) whether notices of the existence of vacancies have been duly published by the District Judge, Tinnevelly, in accordance with G.O. No. 415, Public, dated 26th March 1930, so as to enable ex-military men to apply for the same in time;

(*d*) whether applications were received from ex-military men by the District Judge for the vacancies in the post of clerks on Rs. 35 for the last five years;

(*e*) if so, whether the applications were dealt with in accordance with the Government Orders;

(*f*) how many of the applications were rejected; and